

WIS 29—County VV J-Turns

Brown County

April 2012

J-turns at WIS 29/County VV Intersection

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is incorporating J-Turns as an effective way of reducing crashes at intersections. By reducing the number of conflict points or locations that result in crashes, J-Turns have shown to be effective in reducing crashes on busy highways similar to WIS 29. This is why WisDOT will be building a pair of J-Turns at the WIS 29 & County VV intersection.

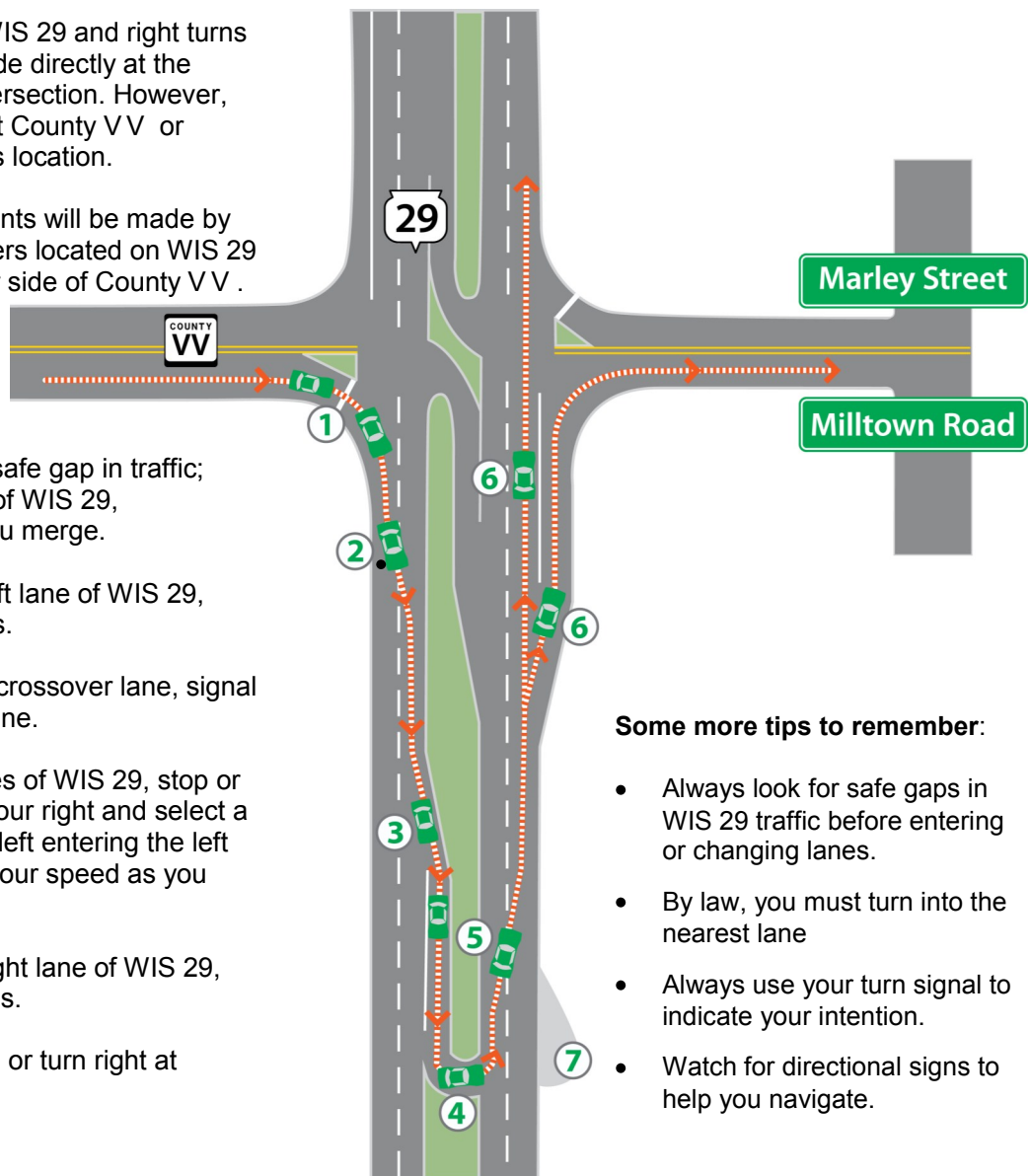
Left turns and right turns from WIS 29 and right turns from County VV will still be made directly at the existing WIS 29/County VV intersection. However, you will not be able to turn left at County VV or directly cross the highway at this location.

Left turns and crossing movements will be made by using one of two J-turn crossovers located on WIS 29 about one-quarter mile on either side of County VV.

These six steps will allow you to turn left or cross WIS 29 from County VV.

- 1) From County VV, select a safe gap in traffic; turn right into the right lane of WIS 29, increasing your speed as you merge.
- 2) Look for a safe gap in the left lane of WIS 29, signal left, and change lanes.
- 3) As you approach the J-turn crossover lane, signal left, and enter the left-turn lane.
- 4) When you reach the far lanes of WIS 29, stop or yield as indicated. Look to your right and select a safe gap in traffic, then turn left entering the left lane of WIS 29, increasing your speed as you merge.
- 5) Look for a safe gap in the right lane of WIS 29, signal right and change lanes.
- 6) Continue straight on WIS 29 or turn right at County VV.

- 7) Please note the grey bulge in the illustration. This is actually a paved area called a loon and accommodates larger vehicles, such as semi trucks, that need more room to complete the U-turn.



Some more tips to remember:

- Always look for safe gaps in WIS 29 traffic before entering or changing lanes.
- By law, you must turn into the nearest lane
- Always use your turn signal to indicate your intention.
- Watch for directional signs to help you navigate.

Frequently Asked Questions about J-turns

Why build a J-turn?

J-turns reduce a significant number of crashes. They are extremely cost-effective, can be quickly implemented, have minimal environmental impacts, and require minimal property acquisition with no relocation of homes and businesses.

What is a J-turn intersection?

This is an intersection that prevents direct crossing and left-turn movements from the side road. These side road movements are made indirectly by making a right turn, traveling about a quarter-mile on the divided main road, and then making a U-turn to proceed in the opposite direction on the main road toward the intended destination. At the original intersection location, left and right turns from the divided main road and right turns from the side road to the main road remain as direct turns. The J-turn does not require mainline through traffic to stop or yield.

Why are J-turns effective in enhancing safety?

J-turns reduce the number of intersection conflict points from 42 to 24 and reduce the right-angle conflict points from 24 to 4. The remaining conflict points are merging, exiting, or lane-changing maneuvers. These are not right angle; if an accident occurs, generally it will be a lower severity crash. Studies done by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program show J-turns provide significant reduction in right-angle, “far” side crashes.

Why isn't a J-turn proposed at WIS 29/County U?

A safe U-turn location was not available and reasonable alternatives existed relatively close to where the U-turns would be located. Drivers will be accommodated to the east by the County VV intersection and by the WIS 32 interchange to the west. Motorists on County U can also travel west on Glendale Ave., Old Highway 29 Road or County VV and access WIS 29.

Are there any J-turns in Wisconsin?

WisDOT built the first J-turn in Wisconsin in 2011 and currently has more than a dozen other locations throughout the state where these will be built. Additionally, J-turns are already in use in several states, including Michigan, Maryland and North Carolina.

Are large vehicles able to use a J-turn?

Yes! An additional turning area called a loon is provided for use by larger vehicles and shown as #7 on the illustration.

How long will the J-turn be effective?

The proposed J-turn will provide a safer intersection than the existing configuration even as traffic volumes continue to increase on WIS 29. The J-turns will continue to operate effectively until WisDOT determines an interchange should replace the WIS 29/County VV intersection.